No Sir. The Crude Oil and Gas production by Pvt./JVs during 2007-08 was 5.08 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and 7.72 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) respectively as compared to 4.83 MMT and 7.04 BCM in the year 2006-07

Several measures have been/are being taken to restrict the quantum of crude import into India. These are as follows:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling early commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/lmproved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from ageing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in Equity Oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil in the transport sector through use of alternative fuels such as Bio-Diesel, Ethanol-blended petrol, etc.

(viii) Evolving suitable technology for extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP).

Supply of gas from abroad

†3064. SHRI SHREEGOPAL WAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether mere are signs of clearance of obstacles with regard to getting gas from Iran;

whether efforts are being made to get the same through sea-route from some other countries: and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHAJ. PATEL): (a)to(c) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline. Important issues concerning the implementation of the Project are under discussion amongst the participating countries at bilateral and trilateral levels.

Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

In addition, a Sale-Purchase Agreement (SPA) was signed on 13th June, 2005 in Tehran for 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) between the National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) and the Indian Consortium of GAIL

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(India) Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). The contract period is for 25 years, beginning from the last quarter of 2009. Simultaneously, the parties have also signed a side letter to the LNG SPA on 13th June, 2005, as per which NIGEC desired to obtain the approval of their parent company. National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for the SPA to become effective. NIGEC has not conveyed NIOC's Board approval till now.

Auditing of share contracts

3065. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether almost 20 oil and gas production sharing contracts signed under the New Exploration Licensing Policy I-V and the Pre-NELP regime are being audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India;

if so, whether this move gathers significance on the back drop of the alleged inflated figures in budgets of some exploration companies before start of commercial production from the fields;

if so, by what time the CAG is likely to give its report; and

whether the Cabinet Secretary in his report on gas pricing, had suggested better monitoring of capital expenditure plans of exploration companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The office of Principal Director of Audit, Economic and Service Ministries, has taken up performance audit of 22 blocks fields including Pre-NELP and NELP blocks/producing fields. No time frame for completion of the performance audit and submission of report has been given by Audit.

The Cabinet Secretary, in his report, had recommended strengthening of the Management Committees and the Audit Mechanism under the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs). In view of this and in view of the concerns expressed in various quarters about capital expenditure by operators, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had requested Comptroller & Auditor General of India to carry out special audit of eight blocks/fields.

Extra expenditure by ONGC

3066. SHRI VUAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether ONGC actually incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3286 crores against the estimated amount of Rs. 2482 crores as revealed through an analysis of 35 wells;

if so, whether scrutiny of seismic surveys contracts showed ONGC's lack of foresight in chartering and mobilizing specialized vessels; and

the sum-total of losses suffered in the shape of extra expenditure having been incurred oyer the estimated expenditure of drilling and exploration during the Tenth Plan?